

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 3 JULY 2022

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign, and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at <http://www.sarl.org.za> while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnwsbulletin.wordpress.com>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary. While the problems experienced by some members accessing the SARL web pages are being attended to, an additional channel is now available. To download the weekly SARL News audio recordings and to listen to, or download Amateur Radio Today, log on to www.amateurradio.org.za.

In the news today:

75TH ANNIVERSARY WISHES

THE ZS5 QSO PARTY THIS AFTERNOON

and

THE SARL KAROO BEACON NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

75TH ANNIVERSARY WISHES

On 1 July 1947, the following three radio amateurs joined the SARL – Dennis Wells, ZS1AU; Artie Perold, ZS1HL, and Barrie Brokensha, ZS6AJY. Congratulations on 75 years of membership of the SARL.

The first issue of Radio ZS was published in July 1947. Gert Schoeman, ZS2GS, was born on 11 July 1947, and Martin Botha, ZS5ADL, was born on 21 July 1947. Happy 75th birthday!

THE ZS5 QSO PARTY THIS AFTERNOON

The ZS5 QSO Party is a fun activity to promote contacts between radio amateurs in Kwazulu-Natal and radio amateurs in Southern African countries. The aim for stations outside ZS5 is to work as many ZS5 stations as possible! The QSO Party is on the air from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC this afternoon. ZS5 stations will exchange an RS or RST report and the name or abbreviation of their town, while all others will exchange an RS or RST report and their provincial or country abbreviation. The QSO Party is a phone and CW contest on the 40-metre band. Take note of the contest-free segment in the phone allocation. Submit your MS Excel log by 21:59 UTC on Friday 8 July 2022 by e-mail to zs5contest@harc.org.za. Turn to page 48 of the 2022 Blue Book for all the rules.

RADIO ZS CELEBRATES 75 YEARS IN JULY

The 140 page July 2022 Radio ZS is available for download from the SARL website. It is available to members and non-members. This is the 75th Anniversary Edition of Radio ZS.

In this issue, Louw, ZS6LME, discusses Transmitting outside the Amateur Radio Frequencies, while Nico, ZS6QL, and Hans, ZS6AKV, discuss the fact that amateur radio is reinventing itself. Read about the Hammies of the Prieska High School and the re-birth of the ZS1AGI 40 m Beacon. Hannes, ZS6BZP, introduces the QO-100 Satellite, and Eddie, ZS6BNE tells about his journey through Amateur Radio - from high school to retirement. Woody takes us to the Stompneus / Shelley Point Lighthouse; Emil, ZS1XB, discusses the 43 foot vertical antenna and Stewart talks about JS8CALL. Brian, G0GSF takes us back to 1947 and the Royal Visit in Wireless on the “White Train”. Tom, ZS1TA says it’s all in the NOISE and Louis, ZS6SK, tells us about the beginning years of amateur radio in Pretoria. In the Museum Piece we ask who invented the microphone. There is more – download your copy today.

CONTEST NEWS

The second RaDAR “Challenge” of the year takes place from 00:00 UTC to 23:59 UTC on Saturday 9 July 2022. The RaDAR Challenge is a unique event aimed at promoting the use of Rapidly Deployable Amateur Radio stations. Options (Fixed, Field or Moving) may be changed at any time during the challenges. The points system is so structured as to encourage portable RaDAR operations, especially moveable RaDAR stations. RaDAR operators are encouraged to be self-sufficient during each challenge, with not only power supply and communications equipment but food, water, protective clothing and shelter. There are 4 categories of participation. Turn to page 74 of the 2022 Blue Book for all the information about this challenge. The RaDAR operators are looking for fixed stations to monitor them during the activity.

The IARU HF Championships will be on the air from 12:00 UTC on Saturday 9 July to 12:00 UTC on Sunday 10 July. It is CW and phone activity on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres. The exchange is an RS or RST report and your ITU Zone, for South Africa it is Zone 59. Member Society HQ stations will send an RS or RST report and abbreviation, e.g., 59 SARL; IARU Officers will send an RS or RST report and AC or R1 or R2 or R3. Get the rules at <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship>.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League. The SARL News Team thanks Louis, ZS5LP, for the relay of Amateur Radio Today on 7 082 kHz every Sunday at 10:00 CAT.

SARL KAROO BEACON NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The SARL Beacon team is making progress on the Next Generation Beacon project. While the device shortages are still delaying the arrival of the actual beacon, the team is working on several other fronts. The MOU to secure the site has been hand-delivered to the owner of the farm and is expected to be

signed within the next two weeks. Len du Plessis, ZS3LEN, has visited the site and has taken many photographs enabling the teams to start the planning process of where to place the solar panels and the fencing around the site. A complete solar power installation has been donated. The donor wants to remain anonymous. “We however would like to thank him for this major contribution,” Brian Jacobs, Project Manager said.

Cor Rademeyer, ZS6COR, has been working on the telemetry and control systems. He is currently testing the reliability and a system to monitor the stability of Raspberry Pi used for telemetry and control. This includes a node MCU and a watchdog timer circuit. “We have to be absolutely sure that we can control this system remotely with several additional fall-back positions as the location is very remote, which of course is ideal for a beacon,” he told the team at the monthly progress meeting last Thursday. The members of the team are working on a beacon monitoring network, alternative beacon designs and antennas.

The Next Generation Beacon fund currently stands at just over 50% of the R60 000 target. The fund was started by AMSAT SA on behalf of the SARL Beacon Project team. Please head over to the AMSATSA Website at www.amsatsa.org.za and contribute to the fund. Use your debit or credit card to make your donation. Click on the R50 or R250 or R1 000 button and complete the details on the PayFast platform. PayFast is South Africa’s largest and most secure credit card payment platform. Your donation will be acknowledged by e-mail and your name and call sign added to the list of supporters.

CONTEST RESULTS

Fifteen logs were received for the Hammies QSO Party held on Sunday 12 June 2022.

Hammies station (26 and younger):

1st Hammies Northern Cape, ZS3ZU – 109 points (operated by Charles Coetzee, ZU3CEC; Henry Coetzee, ZU3HC and Ethan Oberholzer, ZU3EO)

Not Hammies station (27 and older):

1st Deon Fraser, ZS5DCF - 131 points

2nd Gerhard Coetzee, ZS3TG - 120 points

3rd Woody Collett, ZS3WL - 104 points

The results of the SARL Saturday 40 m Club Contest cannot be released. One of the logs received has more questions than answers and an investigation is underway.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently 3 sunspots with simple magnetic configurations vis-

ible. There is a low possibility for C-class flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 45. The 20 and 30 m bands will, especially late afternoon, provide some good DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – The ZS5 QSO Party

7 July – International Chocolate Day and the closing date for Newbie Logs

8 July – the closing date for ZS5 Logs

9 July – the RaDAR Challenge

9 and 10 July – the IARU HF Championships

16 July – the Winter QRP contest

17 July – the ZS2 QSO Party

19 July – Provincial schools reopen

20 July – the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The ZS5 QSO Party is a fun activity to promote contacts between radio amateurs in Kwazulu-Natal and radio amateurs in Southern African countries. The aim for stations outside ZS5 is to work as many ZS5 stations as possible! The QSO Party is on the air from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC this afternoon. Turn to page 48 of the 2022 Blue Book for all the rules.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Friday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, proof read by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.